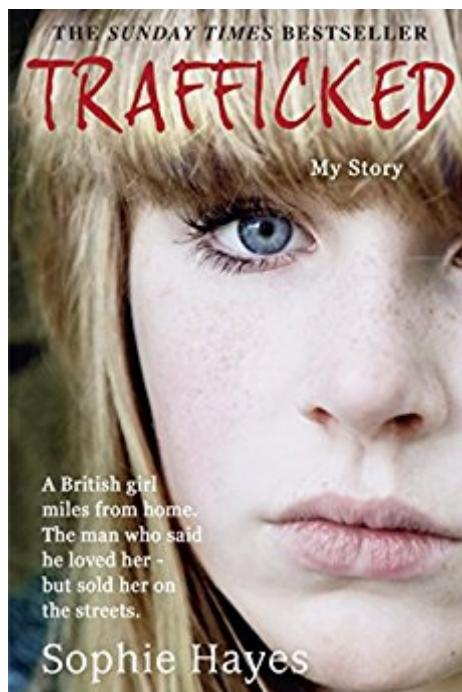


The book was found

Trafficked: The Terrifying True Story Of A British Girl Forced Into The Sex Trade



Synopsis

He'd been her friend for years. He said he loved her. Then she realised she didn't know him at all. When everything seemed to be falling apart in Sophie's life, she was thankful for her friend Kas, who was always at the end of a phone, ready to listen and to offer comfort and advice. Her father's cold dislike of her and then her parents' divorce had left her with a deep distrust of men. But, gradually, Kas made her believe there was at least one man who truly cared about her. But she was wrong. At first when Sophie went to stay for a few days with Kas in Italy, he was kind and caring, as he'd always been. But three days after she arrived, everything changed. His eyes were cold as he described the things he expected her to do "for love". But soon Sophie's bewilderment turned to fear as he punched and shouted at her and threatened to kill her adored younger brothers if she didn't do exactly as she was told: to sell her body on the streets to pay off Kas's debts. Terrified of Kas, the police and the men whose pleasures she was forced to satisfy, Sophie worked seven nights a week for the next six months on the dark and lonely streets of a town in northern Italy. Subjected regularly to Kas's verbal, mental and physical abuse, she knew she would never escape. And then, one day, after she'd been admitted to hospital with stomach pains and knowing that Kas would kill her if he found out she dared to phone her mother. But who would reach her first?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Trafficked, a first-hand account of sex trafficking written by Sophie Hayes, who was a victim, is shocking, involving, and not at all poorly written, but it's not pleasant to read. There are pages upon pages of degradation and abuse that are bleak and difficult to get through. That doesn't factor into my rating; it's to be expected from an account of this sort. But one does venture into a book like this looking for edification, and with the hope that there will be at least some redemption in the end or a glimpse toward a brighter future. I wasn't as uplifted by the author's reformation as others seem to have been--I didn't put down the book confident that Ms. Hayes had remade herself and her future. While she showed much courage as a survivor of brutality, she was also unable to stand up and stop her tormentor from doing this again to her or someone else. And, perhaps more importantly for her future, I'm not sure she came away with a very clear understanding of why this happened to her and why she was so vulnerable in the first place. Her interactions with men--they way she sees them as either her saviors or abusers--are disturbing. She becomes subservient to the cruel ones and is somewhat callous and insensitive to the kind ones who genuinely love her. Until she resolves these issues, her ability to find happiness and stability in a relationship remains in doubt. That, at least partly, contributes to my middling response and rating. But my main problem with the book, as a few others have expressed here (and it's certainly not a popular view) is that I have doubts about the veracity of the story. It's not that I'm blind to the cruelty that happens in the world, and it's not that I can't imagine this happening the way the author said it did.

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